
DEATHS DUE TO FIREARMS: 2001

The Medical Examiner is responsible for reviewing all deaths due to firearms that occur in King County. Medical Examiner data relate primarily to the victim because information regarding the weapon and the shooter involved is often unknown. The following data are specific to the victims of firearm deaths.

In 2001, as in 2000, there were 128 firearm deaths. In 1999, there were 161 firearm deaths, 154 in 1998, and 155 in 1997. Of the 128 deaths in 2001, 43 (34%) were homicides and 85 (66%) were suicides. As in 2000 and in 1999, there were no accidental firearm deaths in 2001. In 2001, gunshot wounds were the leading cause of death for homicides and suicides. In 2001 gunshot deaths comprised 58% (43/74) of homicides, compared to 53% (39/73) in 2000, 58% (52/89) in 1999, and 61% (55/90) in 1998. In 2001, suicides by firearms represented 46% (85/183) of suicide deaths compared to 49% (87/178) in 2000, 48% (106/221) in 1999, and 47% (95/201) in 1998.

Of the 43 2001 gunshot homicide victims, 12% (5/43) were 19 years old and younger. A disproportionate number of gunshot homicides were Black (33%, 14/43) compared to the percentage of Blacks in the general population. Of the 14 Black gunshot homicide victims, 36% (5/14) were males between 20 and 29 years of age. In comparison, 56% (24/43) of the homicide gunshot victims were White. Of the 24 White homicide victims, 50% (12/24) were males between 16 and 29 years old.

Firearms were also the most common mode of committing suicide (46%, 85/183). Of the 85 gunshot suicide victims, 91% (77/85) were white and 89% (76/85) were males. Six of the gunshot suicide victims were 19 years old and under. Thirty-seven (44%) of the gunshot suicide victims were between the ages of 20 and 39 years of age, 25 (29%) between 40 and 59 years, and 17 (20%) were 60 years and older.

Table 10-1 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Age, and Gender

AGE GROUP/ GENDER	MANNER OF DEATH				SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	A	H	S	U		
13-15 years	0	1	1	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	1	
16-19 years	0	4	5	0		9
<i>Male</i>	0	3	5	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
20-29 years	0	20	24	0		44
<i>Male</i>	0	19	21	0	40	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	3	0	4	
30-39 years	0	7	13	0		20
<i>Male</i>	0	7	11	0	18	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	2	0	2	
40-49 years	0	8	13	0		21
<i>Male</i>	0	6	12	0	18	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	1	0	3	
50-59 years	0	1	12	0		13
<i>Male</i>	0	0	12	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
60-69 years	0	2	4	0		6
<i>Male</i>	0	1	3	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	1	0	2	
70-79 years	0	0	7	0		7
<i>Male</i>	0	0	6	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	1	
80-89 years	0	0	6	0		6
<i>Male</i>	0	0	6	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	42	84	0		128

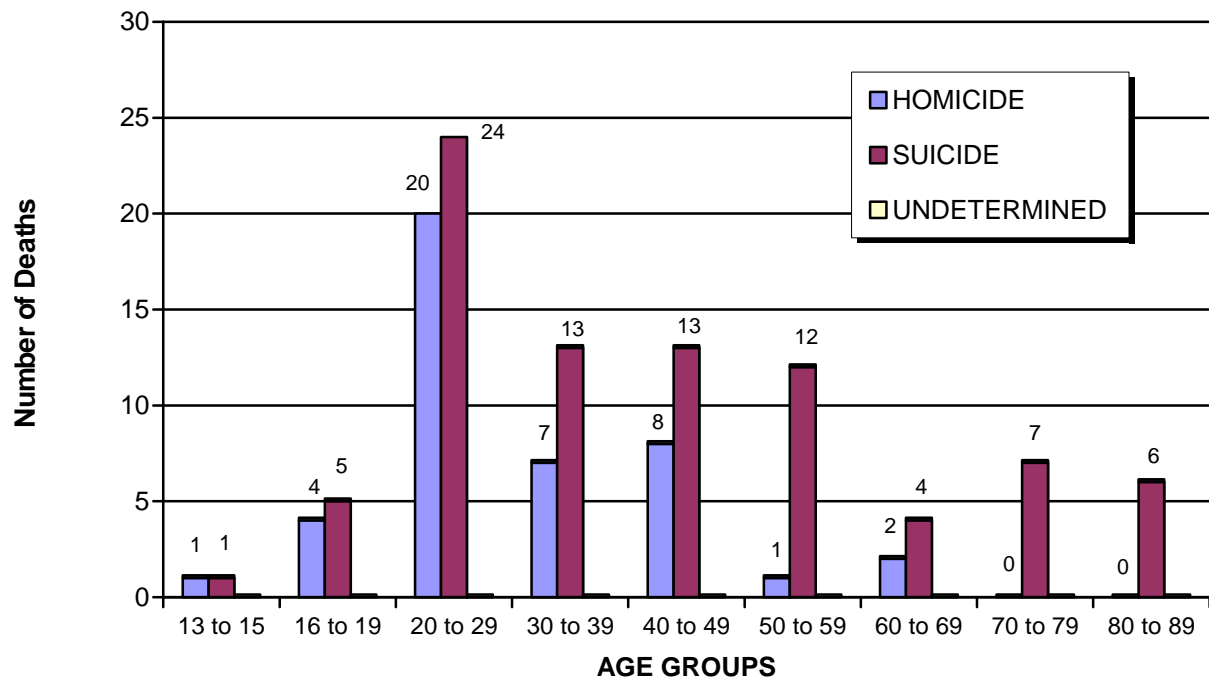
Graph 10-1 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death and Age

Table 10-2 Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Race, and Gender

RACE/ GENDER	MANNER OF DEATH				SUB	
	A	H	S	U	TOTAL	TOTAL
Asian	0	5	6	0		11
<i>Male</i>	0	4	6	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
Black	0	14	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	0	13	0	0	13	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	1	
Native American	0	0	2	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	1	
White	0	24	77	0		101
<i>Male</i>	0	20	69	0	89	
<i>Female</i>	0	4	8	0	12	
Other	0	0	0	0		0
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	43	85	0		128